have been restructured in June, 2002. The restructuring has revised the roles and responsibilities of Regional Offices and Zonal Offices, systems for sanctions and releases of fund, categorisation of Regional Offices and delegation of powers for sanctions.

(c) HUDCO as per Memorandum of Understanding 2002-2003 signed between Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and HUDCO, is set to achieve a target of loan sanctions of Rs. 8400 crore for various housing and urban infrastructure schemes during the current year. During the Tenth Plan, HUDCO proposed to sanction loan of Rs. 61990 crore and loan releases of Rs. 41395 crore.

(d) During the year 2000-2001, HUDCO's share for only housing operations amongst the various Housing Finance Companies was estimated at 22.5%.

NRI investment in Township Development Scheme

593. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "No takers among NRIs for Government's FDI invitation in the Township Development Scheme", which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 30th May, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to attract NRI investment in projects for developing integrated townships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Scheme for Foreign Direct Investment in development of integrated township, companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 are required to submit proposals for development of integrated township to the Central Government in accordance with the guidelines contained in Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Press Note No. 3 (2002 Series) dated 4.1.2002 for necessary approval.

As per available information, one proposal for foreign investment in setting up of integrated residential township project has been received.

Visit of Vice-Chairman, DDA and other Officials

†594. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vice-Chairman of DDA visited Hong Kong alongwith his two colleagues;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the status of the two colleagues who accompanied him alongwith the amount incurred on this visit; and

(c) whether Government would like to ban such aimless foreign visits so as to check the misuse of public money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Vice-Chairman, DDA alongwith Director (Landscape), DDA and Professor C.R. Babu, Director Central Environment Management of Degraded Eco-systems (CEMDE), University of Delhi had visited Hong Kong from 19.6.2002 to 21.6.2002 to gain first hand knowledge about setting up of a Bio-Diversity Park. The journey was undertaken for a specific purpose to get practical suggestions for development of Bio-Diversity Park in New Delhi in collaboration with University of Delhi and to gain experience in this respect. An expenditure of Rs. 1,45,092/- was incurred on the visit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for one hour.

The House then adjourned at twenty-one minutes past eleven of the clock.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.